the ceiling for general industries and Rs. 50 lakhs for electronic industries in the hill districts. Also, 90 per cent transport subsidy is given. And because of the situation and the backwardness, when special schemes are brought out, assistance is given to them.

Abolition of fees for the U.P.S.C. examination

*163. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand from the student community that the examination fees for the competitive examinations/tests conducted by the UPSC be abolished for the economically weaker sections and the middle class people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, such suggestoins have been made in Parliament. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who appear at the competitive examinations conducted by the UPSC are fully exempt from the prescribed examination fees.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Sir, I am happy to know that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are given exemption from examination fees for UPSC examinations. But the reply given is very brief. I want more details. The term 'economically weaker sections' includes physically handicapped also. So I would like to know whether physically handicapped candidates are provided exemption from paying UPSC examination fees. Now I come to part (b) of my supplementary. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates who pass the preliminary examinations of the UPSC find it difficult to undergo further training in the institutes owing to financial constraints. I want to know whether the Government is providing financial assistance to those candidates and if not, whether the Government will provide them with such financial assistance.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, physically handicapped candidates are also exempt from payment of application and examinations fees in respect of recruitment to Group C and Group B non-gazetted posts. As regards financial assistance, Sir, the answer is: No. This Ministry is not providing any financial assistance. But we are persuading the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Welfare to join in working out a scheme by which more coaching centres can be established, where these candidates can be coached.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: My second supplementary is as follows. It is a fact that the tribal and weaker sections of the population are indifferent in appearing at UPSC examinations because of financial difficulties. Because their dwelling place is in remote areas, it is difficult for them to afford the expenses to appear at UPSC examinations. Examination centres are often too far away from their places of dwelling. Therefore, it was the proposal of the Government to set up UPSC examination centres in tribal and remote areas to attract more candidates from rural areas for IAS, IPS and other Civil Services examinations. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether such centres have been opened and if they are opened, the names of the centres.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a very large number of centres have been established by the UPSC. More and more centres are being established. If the hon. Member wishes I can send him a list of the centres. If he has a particular place in mind where he thinks a centre should be opened, he can let me know the name of the place and it will be duly communicated.

श्री अजीत जोगी : मान्यवर, मैं अपना प्रश्न मध्य प्रदेश के आदिवासियों के संबंध में

पूछना चाहता हूं । मध्य प्रदेश में आदिवासियों की संख्या राष्ट्र में सबसे अधिक है, लगभग सवा करोड़ आदिवासी मध्य प्रदेश में निवास करते हैं । किन्तु यदि हम पिछले चालीस वर्षों से...

श्री सभापति : यह प्रश्न य०पी०एस० सी० से संबंधित नहीं है । यह प्रश्न के "बी" भाग से संबंधित है । इसमें हम हर चीज नहीं ले सकते हैं।

श्री अजीत जोगी : मैं उसी का पूछ रहा हूं । अभी तक, जैसे पिछले चालीस वर्षों में य०पी०एस०सी० में इन सवा करोड़ में से केवल दो छात्रों का चयन हुआ और इसके विपरीत यदि हम देखें तो उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों की चयन संख्या से कम है ।

श्री सभापति : इसका फीस से क्या संबंध है ?

श्री अजीत जोगी : यह फीस से ही संबंधित है । .... **(व्यवधान)** मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि मध्य प्रदेश के आदिवासी छात्रों में से बहुत कम लोगों का आई०ए०एस० और आई०पी०एस० परीक्षाओं में चुनाव हो पा रहा है । ज्यादा लोगों का चुनाव इसलिए नहीं हो पा रहा है ... **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What is the use of saying this? Those who have passed the I.A.S. are resigning and coming to Rajya Sabha.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: So that they can raise this question here. तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि केवल फीस ही एक ऐसा कारण नहीं है जिसके न हो सकने के कारण इन छात्रों का चयन नहीं हो रहा है । मध्य प्रदेश का इलाका और क्षेत्रफल इतना बड़ा है ... ।

श्री सभापति : मध्य प्रदेश का सवाल नहीं है, आप पढ़ लीजिए ।

श्री अजीत जोगी : इसलिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने जो प्रस्ताव भेजा है कि आदिवासी छात्रों के लिए रायपुर में एक यू० पी०एस०सी० का केन्द्र होना चाहिए। उसके संबंध में शासन का क्या विचार है ? क्या यह रिजल्ट देखते हुए कि पिछले 40 वर्षों में केवल दो छात्रों का चयन हुआ है क्या रायपुर में केन्द्र खोलने की स्वीकृति दी जायेगी ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I cannot off-hand say whether a Centre has been set up in Raipur. But Government's policy is to support the establishment of more and more centres. I shall certainly communicate this to the U.P.S.C. and if there is no centre at Raipur today, we shall try to persuade the UP.S.C. to set up a centre there.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: There is a very low percentage of tribal in the services. This question was raised by a Member of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and it was stated to be an accepted principle that there should be a pre-examination training centre and also an in-service training centre for the tribal and the scheduled caste students. I would like to know whether this principle has been followed by the present Government or not. I want a categorical statement from the Prime Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If the hon. Member is referring to centres to help candidates in their preparation for taking these examinations, such centres are already existing. They are being run by the Ministry of Welfare with the help of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. As I said, a couple of years ago, a question was raised in Parliament asking that more such centres should be set up in the rural areas in order to help the rural candidates. As I said a little while ago, we are trying to persuade the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Welfare to join in a more comprehensive programme to set up more centres in rural and backward areas in order to help such candidates take the examination. If the hon. Member is referring to induction training after they take the examination, I would like to inform

him that every service has induction training. The I.A.S. candidates undergo induction training in Mussoorie. The I.P.S. candidates undergo induction training at Mussoorie and Hyderabad. Every service has induction training after the candidates get through the examination.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, about the exemption of fee, it is a persistent demand from the student community and the unemployed youth that there should be exemption of fees. The Minister has replied. But I don't understand from his reply what the difficulty is in exempting fees. I would like to know whether after a certain ceiling on the income of the parents, the Government is prepared to exempt the students or the unemployed youth from paying the application fee or the examination fee. Otherwise, the students face much difficulty.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, may I rely upon what the hon. Member, Shri Jogi, said a little while ago. I do not think that fee is the inhibiting factor in the case of a large number of candidates who take the examinations. On the contrary, this fee was fixed way back and but for a marginal revision in 1965, we have not increased the fees during the last 20 years. The difficulty in prescribing the economic standard is that again we have to go through the whole exercise of trying to get the certificates, to vertify the income certificates, etc. As it is the income which the UPSC and the Staff Selection Commission get from these fees is only a small proportion of the total expenditure.

It is by budgetary support only that these examinations are being conducted by these two organisations and if you completely do away with that, what will happen is that there will be a large number of candidates who are not serious about the examination but who will take the application forms, who would not take the examination. I think there will be a large amount of infructuous expenditure. As it is we are talking of numbers like about 1.5 lakhs for the UPSC examination and about eight lakhs for the Clerks' Grade Examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission. The numbers are very large and I do not think that fee is an inhibiting factor. It is A very small sum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 164.

कुमारी सईदा खातून : सर, एक भी महिला ने क्वेश्चन नहीं दिया है । प्लीज बोलने दीजिए ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 164.

कुमारी सईदा खातून : सर, . . .***

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not co on record. I have called Question No.] 64.

Progress of the second antarctica station "Maitree"

164. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA :f

SHRIMATl VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of the second permanent Indian Antarctica Station "Maitree"; and

(b) what is the future Indian Scientific programme in Antarctica, and what are the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHIRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid On the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The second Indian permanent station in Antarctica at Maitree is now ready for occupation and wintering. The foundation and the structure have been completed together with all life support

***Not recorded.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Kumari Sushila Tiria.